





Blanche Toner in front of the Yoncalla House c 1928

Reflections

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Blanche Toner in Yoncalla, Oregon. I believe she was born in this house—her parents' home, James and Bertha Toner—which stood directly across from Yoncalla High School.

The photo also captures part of the town's early street layout, including wooden boardwalk-style sidewalks and the corner in front of the house. There are numerous photos of this house and its exterior details.

Teaching appears to have run in the family. Kenneth and Rafael were both teachers at the high school, likely while Blanche was a student there, and her younger brother John may have taught there for a time as well. It was, at least potentially, a family profession.

Blanche soon attended Normal School in Monmouth, and her first teaching assignment was in remote Wapinitia, south of Mt. Hood. But she later told me teaching was not the right fit for her—she felt more like a babysitter than a classroom teacher—so that chapter was short. There were only a couple of students, most from one family. I've also wondered whether she may not have been among the strongest students at Monmouth, and whether this assignment reflected the limited options for first placements.

The back of the photo is stamped with the number 10. Hopefully it can be reunited with the rest of the set and help fill out more of the story.





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